



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY: Eight Tukwila trees to be cut for signs of Citrus Longhorned Beetle

Who: Dr. Clinton Campbell, Pest Program manager at the state Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Brad White, managing entomologist, will make brief presentations and answer questions prior to a WSDA crew cutting down and dissecting eight trees for evidence of beetle damage.

What: Reporters can observe the cutting, inspection and chipping of the first potentially infested trees. Department entomologists saw a Citrus Longhorned Beetle flying into this wooded area last August. The trees are being removed with the owner's permission. It will take about two days to cut down and dissect the eight trees, which include maples, alders and cherry trees. Results of the inspection are expected to be released by early next week.

When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 12

Where: Across from the Bonsai Northwest nursery in Tukwila at the northwest corner of the intersection of Macadam Rd. S. and S. 144th St.

Background: The citrus longhorned beetle attacks and eventually kills healthy hardwood trees. The trees being cut Wednesday range in size from 11 ft. to 53 ft. in height. These eight trees are the first of about a thousand trees proposed to be cut down in a 1/8th-mile radius circle, the center of which is the middle of a fenced-off area at the Bonsai Northwest nursery. A firm schedule for cutting down the other trees has not been set by the Department of Agriculture.

Last August, three citrus longhorned beetles were captured in Tukwila and evidence was found that another five escaped into the environment. They were the first citrus longhorned beetles to be found out-of-doors in the U.S. A quarantine was established Nov. 27 to keep the beetle from becoming established in Washington. It restricts movement of hardwood trees and shrubs out of the area roughly 1/2 mile in all directions from the intersection of Macadam Rd. S. and S. 144th St.

For more information, visit the Department of Agriculture's Web site at www.wa.gov/agr/CitrusLHBeetle.htm.

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